

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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COR-0383-59
Copy 3 of 9

13 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Branch, DPD-DD/P
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Project CORONA
(Use of ARPA PIO, Mr. William Godell)

1. In a conversation with the Cover Officer, DPD, an issue was highlighted suggesting a misunderstanding on my part as to use of Mr. William E. Godell, Public Information Officer, ARPA.

2. It is my recollection, refreshed by review of my records, on 8 November 1958 you advised Mr. Gise of ARPA that the ARPA Public Information Officer, Mr. Godell, could and should be aware of CORONA matters to better appreciate implications of questions put to him by the press or public. The following week there was some discussion as to the status of Mr. Godell in the ARPA PIO position. It is my understanding it was subsequently decided we would make the best of the situation by accepting Godell's knowledge of CORONA information as the PIO of ARPA, but not bring him into operational matters.

3. In accord with the above, I have given Godell a security briefing and on a couple of occasions he has alerted us concerning press situations having security implications. I also find he generally accompanies Mr. Roy Johnson when the latter has a press conference or appears before a committee or the public. In this respect, on 12 March Godell requested an opportunity to review our proposed explanations for the specific shots in the CORONA series. When this was explored with [redacted] he explained he received an injunction from you not to have anything to do with the PIO of ARPA and CORONA press matters will be handled through Air Force.

4. While I appreciate the factors which precipitated [redacted] conclusion, I feel it is unrealistic. ARPA is the public head of DISCOVERER and the PIO is susceptible to constant

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This document contains information
referring to Project CORONA

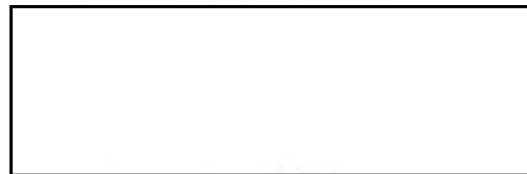
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inquiry. To avoid putting ARPA in an awkward position which might give an appearance of poor Administrative control, suggest something secretive about DISCOVERER, or imply we have excluded ARPA. I recommend we use Mr. Godell as suggested above and [redacted] re-view the CORONA press program with this officer.

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Security Officer
DPD-DD/P

CONCUR:



Deputy Director (Plans)

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